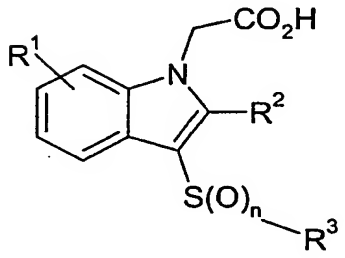
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which:

n represents 1 or 2;

R^1 is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4, OR^4, SR^4, SOR^4, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6, $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, NR^9COR^4, aryl, heteroaryl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl or C_{1-6}alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR^7 and NR^8R^9, NR^8R^9, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO_2R^4 or $CONR^5R^6$, COR^4 or C_{1-7}alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^8 and NR^5R^6, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0,1 or 2;

R^3 is aryl or a 5-7 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4, OH, OR^4, SR^4, SOR^4, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6, $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, NR^9COR^4, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^7 and NR^8R^9, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0,1 or 2;

R^4 represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^{10}

and $NR^{11}R^{12}$ $S(O)_xR^{13}$ (where x = 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$,$SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, an aryl,or a heteroaryl, the latter three of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR^{13} and $NR^{14}R^{15}$, $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$,$SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;
or
R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocylic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_x$ where x is 0, 1 or 2, NR^{16}, and the ring itself optionally substituted by C_1-C_3 alkyl;

R^7 and R^{13} independently represent a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, an aryl or heteroaryl group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, $C(O)R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, aryl or heteraryl groups, both of which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); an aryl or a heteroaryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{14}, R^{15}, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C_1-C_6 alkyl, an aryl or a heteroaryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

R^{16} is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, -$C(O)C_1$-C_4 alkyl, $C(O)YC_1$-C_4alkyl, Y is O or NR^7.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which n is 2.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which R^1 is halogen, nitrile, C_{1-6}alkyl or SO_2R^4, NO_2, NR^9COR^4, $NR^9SO_2R^4$, aryl, NR^5R^6.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which R^2 is C_{1-6}alkyl.

6. A compound according to claim 4 in which R^3 is phenyl substituted by halogen..

7. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfinyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfinyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-ethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

4-(Acetylamino)-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

5-fluoro-2-methyl-3-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for use in therapy.

9. A method of treating a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2, which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 7.

10. A method according to claim 9 where the disease is asthma or rhinitis..

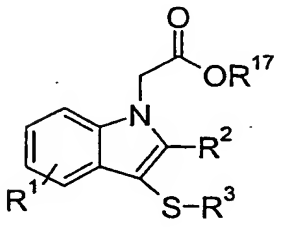
11. Use of a compound of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 7, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2.

12. Use of a compound of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 7, in the treatment of a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2.

13. Use according to claim 11 or 12 where the disease is asthma or rhinitis.

14. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises reaction of a compound of formula (II):

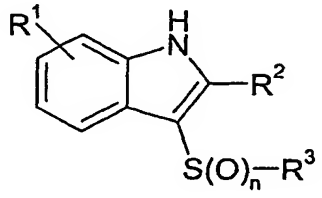
(a) oxidation of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which R^{17} is hydrogen or alkyl and R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) or are protected derivatives thereof, or

(c) reaction of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

in which R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in formula (I) or are protected derivatives thereof, with a compound of formula (IV):

$$R^{18}\text{-}O(CO)CH_2\text{-}L \quad (IV)$$

where R^{18} is an alkyl group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter (a) or (b) in any order:

- hydrolysing the ester group R^{17} or R^{18} to the corresponding acid
- removing any protecting group
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.